



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Dave Frizzell**

200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

## 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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# 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up



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What important issues are facing our community today in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail your thoughts to me at [h93@iga.in.gov](mailto:h93@iga.in.gov), post your comments on my Web site at [www.in.gov/h93](http://www.in.gov/h93), or return this card with your comments below.

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# Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers.

*The budget is a bipartisan compromise, receiving support from Democrats and Republicans alike. Sound fiscal principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:*

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It should maintain at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

Gov. Daniels, along with Senate and House Republicans, outlined the above standards early in the process and we did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding for each student. In addition, the "education trigger" allots 50 percent of state revenue to education when state income exceeds our revenue projections.

*Statewide public education will receive what I believe is solid support:*

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at rapidly growing public schools.
- The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding is authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state including Purdue University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.
- The state's higher education scholarship grants program will receive increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

Based on the current economic conditions, I believe this is the right budget for Indiana; that's why I voted for it.



Rep. Frizzell during a town hall meeting.



Rep. Frizzell speaking during session.

## Identity Protection

With identity theft among the fastest-growing crimes in the state, the legislature worked with the attorney general's office in a concerted effort to combat identity theft. Measures passed this session to protect Hoosiers from identity theft include:

- Allowing Hoosiers to "freeze" their credit, prohibiting anyone from applying for credit cards under their name.
- Makes it a Class C felony for a parent or guardian to use a child's personal information to commit identity theft and fraudulently obtain credit.
- Gives identity theft victims the ability to obtain a court order to help correct financial accounts, credit reports and personnel records.
- Requires businesses that use personal information to implement and maintain safeguards to protect against identity theft.

## Increased Protection for Hoosier Children

I supported a budget provision that gives about \$145,000 annually to create an ombudsman for the Department of Child Services, which can be the last line of defense for abused and neglected children. Lawmakers and community activists called for the position after the deaths of several children whose cases had come to the attention of state caseworkers, and they considered funding for the program a win for children.

## Abandoned Property

House Enrolled Act 1358 will help to address an abandoned housing problem and improve local community development by cleaning up cities and communities. Prohibits those with a history of code violations from purchasing new property through tax sales. Keeping those with a history of code violations from purchasing new property through a tax sale will keep these properties out of the hands of violators and provide an incentive for those violators to clean up their act.

## Qualified Immunity for Teachers

House Enrolled Act 1462 grants teachers qualified immunity for reasonable acts of discipline. This legislation removes a worry that prevented teachers from disciplining misbehaving students, allowing them to maintain a safer environment for learning. It also adds possession of child pornography to the list of felonies for which teachers may lose their licenses.



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